



Governor Nixon's Welcome  
Higher Education Summit  
August 17, 2010

Welcome to the first Governor's Summit on Higher Education. This event brings together the leadership of Missouri's Higher Education Community to develop a new public agenda for Missouri.

Presidents and Chancellors, Chairs of our Governing Boards of all the public institutions, members of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, staff from the Missouri Department of Higher Education, and chief academic officers and their faculty teams are gathered this afternoon to learn about several vitally important issues that are shaping the future of higher education, not just in Missouri but in the nation.

I am very pleased you are here.

I want this Summit to convey my commitment to higher education and underscore the importance of higher education to the future of our state.

I also want to provide you with information that will help you lead your institutions even more effectively. We must focus and channel our collective energies to develop an agile and aggressive response to the changing demands on higher education. That will ensure that it remains relevant and valuable to our students, our state, and our world.

Here is a preview of the day:

Missouri Budget Director Linda Luebbering will present the current budget outlook for Missouri and discuss its implications for higher education.

Even with the additional federal funding approved by Congress last week, I think we all know that Missouri's budget will face serious challenges for a number of years.

Higher education will share those challenges, as will every part of state government. The bottom

line is clear: we are going to need to roll up our sleeves and find new ways to become even more efficient in the delivery of high quality education to our growing number of students if we are to serve the state as well as we can.

You will hear about one way this is being done, from Dr. Carol Twigg, a highly respected academician from the National Center for Academic Transformation. Dr. Twigg will be discussing the state of the art in course transformation, with a focus on adapting the successful work already done at dozens of institutions across the country to an effort that might be coordinated state-wide in Missouri.

Her work clearly shows that learning can be improved in the most heavily enrolled undergraduate courses, and costs reduced substantially at the same time. It is particularly important that our provosts and faculty leaders review this work, so that you can return to your campuses and continue the all-important process of enlisting faculty commitment and leadership.

Despite our serious budget challenges, Missouri needs a better-educated workforce so that we are prepared to compete and win in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

That economy will put a premium on knowledge, and the United States must boost its educational aspirations and attainment in order to be successful globally.

I am very pleased that Dr. Dewayne Matthews from the Lumina Foundation is here to share its national attainment agenda. The Lumina Foundation is well-known for championing its “big goal” of increasing the nation’s level of high-quality college degrees to 60 percent by twenty twenty-five.

I want Missouri to be a state that stretches for that “big goal.”

The speakers today were selected to help set the stage for the higher education agenda I believe Missouri needs to pursue.

Tonight, I will host the Coordinating Board, Presidents and Chancellors, and their institutions’ Board leadership at the Mansion where I will give them an initial four-part charge for what I want our institutions to accomplish.

Here, in brief, is a preview of what I will tell them later.

I will call for action on a four-point agenda:

**First**, Missouri must enroll and retain more students who can persevere all the way to the goal line, and graduate from college. We need to dramatically increase the number of Missourians who earn high-quality two- and four-year degrees.

**Second**, it is time for Missouri to conduct a systematic, state-wide review of all academic programs at its public institutions. We must determine how best to focus their institutional missions, and deploy our limited resources strategically to meet educational and workforce priorities for our state.

**Third**, in order to become more efficient, our institutions must become more collaborative. That applies to administrative services and to academic programs.

**And fourth**, we must decide how best to fund our institutions in a sustainable way that improves the coordination of missions, addresses strategic needs, and rewards better performance.

Missouri's future demands that we deliver a smart, forward-looking public agenda for higher education.

When you leave here this afternoon, I want you to be assured that I am fully committed to working with you and with the Legislature to find solutions that will serve your institutions well in these difficult times, and strengthen higher education in our state for many years to come.

Everyone in this room has experience that will be invaluable to this difficult process. Whether you are a college president, academic administrator, faculty leader, or board member, your knowledge, experience and insights will make this a success.

I have complete confidence in your ability to meet and surmount the challenges that lie ahead of us, and I look forward to a strong and productive partnership.

I think you will find this afternoon's presentations enlightening, thought-provoking, and inspirational in equal measure.

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